



H.R. 727 - Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act of 2007

Floor Situation

H.R. 727 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. The bill was introduced by Representative Gene Green (D-TX) on January 16, 2007, and has not been considered by any committee in the 110th Congress.

The bill is expected to be considered on the floor on March 27, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 727 amends the Public Health Service Act by directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services ("the Secretary") to conduct and support research, training, evaluations, and demonstration projects with respect to trauma care. The Secretary will collect, compile, and disseminate information on the achievements of State and local agencies and private entities in providing trauma care and emergency medical services and give special consideration to the unique needs of rural areas. Also, the Secretary must provide to State and local agencies technical assistance to enhance each State's capability to develop, implement, and sustain the trauma care component of each State's plan for the provision of emergency medical services.

H.R. 727 allows the Secretary to make grants to public and nonprofit private entities for the purpose of carrying out research and demonstration projects with respect to improving the availability and quality of emergency medical services in rural areas. These grants will be awarded to improve the quality of communications technologies, develop model curricula for training emergency medical services personnel, and for other purposes.

The bill allows the Secretary to make competitive grants to states, political subdivisions, or consortia of States or political subdivisions for the improvement of trauma care. These grants are designed to enhance the development of trauma care systems and to strengthen, develop, and improve an existing trauma care system.

This legislation requires that any State involved in this program agree to provide non-Federal matching funds for the awarded grants.

H.R. 727 requires that States receiving grants must have an emergency medical services plan that coordinates planning for trauma centers with disaster emergency and bioterrorism hospital preparedness planning. This legislation would require the Secretary to update the model plan for the designation of trauma centers and for triage, transfer, and transportation policies.

The bill authorizes \$12 million for fiscal year 2008, \$10 million for fiscal year 2009, and \$8 million for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2012 for the trauma research described above.

H.R. 727 requires the Secretary to enter into a contract with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences or another appropriate entity to conduct a study on the state of the trauma care and trauma research. The bill authorizes \$750,000 for fiscal year 2008 for this contract.

The legislation allows the Secretary to make grants to public and nonprofit private entities for the purpose of planning and developing approved residency training programs in emergency medicine. Also, the Secretary only may make the grant if the grantee agrees that the training program will provide education and training in identifying and referring cases of domestic violence. The bill authorizes \$400,000 for each fiscal year 2008 through 2012.

Background

Trauma is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 1 and 44 and is the third leading cause of death in the general population of the United States. 150,000 Americans die every year from accidents that result in traumatic injuries.

Cost

Assuming that the specified amounts are appropriated for fiscal years 2008 through 2012, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 727 would cost \$40 million over the 2008-2012 period. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts.

Staff Contact

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